actions plan in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/ quasi-wage employment.

At present, 12 National Child Labour Projects are under implementation in 8 States covering approximately 16,000 children. A major activity undertaken under the National child Labour Projects is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. Volunatry agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants in-Aid Scheme.

In addition to the above, the National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour has also identified 100 districts which have the highest incidence of child Labour in the country. It has been decided that projects to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations will be started as per the National Child Labour Project Scheme in these districts. A workshop of these 100 District Collectors is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on 13-14 September, 1995. The concerned Collectors have been requested to prepare project proposals in their respective districts based on the National Child Labour Project Scheme. An allocation of Rs. 34.4 crores has been made for the current year to undertake projects for children withdrawn from work.

Buying of Tabacco Strocks by Russian Team

37. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Russian team visited India to buy tobacco stocks from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of tobacco that is to be bought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No official delegation from Russia has visited India during the current year for purchase of tobacco.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the bilateral agreement signed between the Govenrment of India and Russia on 23rd December, 1994, the Russian side is to take all necessary measures and render assistacne to Russian business entities and organisations for annual purchase of 20,000 MTs of tobacco from India during the calendar years 1995 to 1997.

Membership of the All India Newspaper Employees Federation (AINEF)

38. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Newspaper Employees Federation (AINEF) has demanded verification of Memebrship of the National Organisations of Newspspers employees—National Federation of Newspaper Employees (NFNE) and the AINEF in order to setting the question of representation on the Non-Journalists Wage Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that the AINEF has demanded replacement of the NFNE representative on the Non-Journalists Wage Board; and

(c) whether the Labour Ministry has taken any decision on the demands of the AINEF; if not, by when Government decision is likely to be expected;

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has initiated steps to amend the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions

Act, 1995 with a view to providing wider representation to Employees and Employers on the Wage Boards.

Investments by MMTC

39. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) has chalked out any plan to invest huge amounts in infrastructure and trade logistics or joint ventures;

(b) if so, the details thereof, area-wise; and

(c) by when these investments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a)'to (c) MMTC proposes to expand and diversify its involement in Minerals & Ores, Metals, Fertilizers, Gem & Jewellery, Agro and Marine Products and Textiles as well as in development of trade related infrastructue such as port development and setting up of warehouses. No time-frame for these proposed investments can be indicated at this stage.

Coal demanded by power Project at Mangalore in Karnataka

40. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power project at Mangalore in Karnataka has demanded coal for its utilisation;

(b) if so, the annual demand of coal thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the requirement of the power project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Recently a private company has requested for coal linkage for a 1000 MW captive power plant proposed to be set up at Nandikur near Mangalore in Karnataka for which the demand is for 5 million tonnes of coal per annum. The question of coal linkage may be considered- on receipt of further information and other relevant details from the applicant.

Proposal to Increase Export of Rice

41. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister COMMERCE of be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 5865 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th May, 1995 and to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the export of rice;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Measures initiated to enhance export of rice inter-alia include:

(i) Removal of all price and quantity restrictions on the export of both basmati and non-basmati rice;

(ii) Food Corporation of India has also been permitted to export/sell for export 2.0 million MTs of fine and superfine rice from the central pool during 1995-96;

(iii) assistance in organising overseas campaigns and participation in trade fairs/exhibitions;

(iv) providing financial assistance to exporters in improving quality, packing, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys etc.